(c) and (d) A high Level Committee has been constituted on 16th November, 2000 under the Chairmanship of Professor Abhijit Sen, ex-Chairman, Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices to formulate a long term grain policy for the country. The terms of reference of the Committee are as follows:

(i) Minimum Support Prices (MSP) and Price Support Operations

(ii) The Food Corporation of India (FACI) related issues

(iii) Functioning of the Public Distribution System (PDS)

(iv) Grain Policy regarding buffer stocks, open market intervention and export/import

(v) Allocation of foodgrains for rural development and other welfare programmes.

Disposal of maize lying in godowns in Andhra Pradesh

482 SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 40,000 million tonnes of maize is lying in godowns in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking for quick disposal of the same to avoid huge loss to the exchequer;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Centre is proposing to export 50 lakh tonnes of wheat and 30 lakh tonnes of maize, rice etc. this year to off-load the stocks; and

(d) if so, the quality of rice and maize proposed to be exported from Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) No, Sir. However, a quantity of 42,900 MT of maize has been procured in the State of Andhra Pradesh during Kharif Marketing Season 2000-2001.

(b) It was decided to dispose of the maize @ Rs. 405/per quintal on "first come first serve basis". 42,000 MT of maize has already been disposed in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) In order to off-load the surplus stocks from the Central Pool, FCI has been permitted to offer for sale a quantity of 50 lakh MTs of wheat and 30 lakh MTs of rice for export during the year 2001-2002. As regards maize, the High Level Committee of FCI has been authorised to dispose the balance quantities of coarsegrains, not disposed in the domestic market by exports through Public Sector Undertakings at a price not below Rs. 3510 per MT.

Loan to A.P. Government for procurement of rice

483. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government had released a loan of Rs. 120 crores to the Government of Andhra Pradesh during the year 2000-2001 for procurement of rice in the State;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has furnished the details of the procurement of rice made therefrom;

(c) what was the procurement, variety-wise and district-wise;

(d) whether any amounts of the loan were diverted for other purpose by the State Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The variety-wise and district-wise procurement of rice in Andhra Pradesh by the Food Corporation of India is in Statements I and II *(See* below)

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (a) above.